

Yesterday, exercising my oversight authority as a member of the House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I led a coalition of 43 Members of Congress to press the Office of Management and Budget to exclude the “Tiahrt Amendments” from President Obama’s 2014 budget. I have worked for years to repeal these amendments, which restrict the data available to law enforcement to track guns used in crimes. Now is the time to put common sense reforms in place to stop the flow of illegal guns and end the violence.

The Tiahrt Amendments are riders attached to appropriations bills that do not receive a floor vote or debate. They prohibit the ATF from requiring gun shops to perform inventory checks, require background check data to be destroyed within 24 hours and limit local law enforcements’ access to ATF gun data. These measures hamstringing local law enforcement’s ability to fight crime and force the ATF to depend on solely on their own limited resources to track illegal guns.

It is unconscionable to limit law enforcement’s access to the tools they need to fight crime and illegal gun trafficking. While pharmacies and other fields are required to check for inventory, gun stores are not. As a result, the restrictive Tiahrt Amendments have allowed thousands of guns to cross our border or to be purchased illegally without any oversight.

You can read more about the Tiahrt amendments [here](#) .